



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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Minutes 03/31/2010

ARLINGTON FINANCE COMMITTEE
 MINUTES OF MEETING
 7:30PM O'Neill Room Community Safety Building
 3/31/10

ATTENDEES:

McGaffigan*		Bayer*	Phelps*	Dunn*
DeCoursey	Connors*	Simmons*	Olszewski*	
Tosti*	Foskett*	Deyst*	Ronan*	
Ferrara*	Franclemont*	Jones*	Deshler*	
DuBois*	Howard*	Fanning*	Carman*	Turkall*

* Indicates present

MINUTES of 3/29 approved as corrected. Unanimous

VISITORS: Town Manager Brian Sullivan

ART 27 GIC: Sullivan reviewed the GIC negotiations w/ Town unions. He feels stymied but believes that there are substantial savings for the Town in joining GIC with no downside for Town workers. His proposed home rule legislation would allow the Town the same authority as the State to control health insurance plans, including joining GIC w/o negotiations w/ unions. VOTED positive action. Unanimous.

PUBLIC SAFETY ADMIN: Sullivan agrees that it is time to break up this budget between Fire & police. Will consider next year.

CoA TRANSPORTATION: Sullivan will investigate whether the money put aside for a late tax bill has been budgeted for other purposes as seems to be the case from the EF budget. He says there is no legal obligation to pay the tax bill which was not received until after several requests from CoA. He may consider paying only part of the bill.

PERSONNEL \$30k TRAINING BUDGET: Sullivan explained that this money is used to train middle managers and to conduct assessment centers for police & fire officers.

QUINN BILL FUNDING: Sullivan has been advised that the Town must fund all officers now qualified regardless of State reimbursement. After 7/1/09, officers not already qualified are not eligible.

YOUTH SERVICES EF: Sullivan said the billing agent will be important in the reorganized enterprise since it will be much more dependent on 3d party funding. He expects to have a revised budget next week.

ART 59 ROBBINS FARM 7/4 PARTY FUNDING: In response to a request from the party committee, Sullivan thinks \$500 would show Town support & encourage others to contribute. VOTED No action for funding a party when

severe budget cuts are required. Unanimous.

ART 58 MM FEASIBILITY STUDY: Sullivan stated that Minuteman Tech enrollment is much less than the building capacity. He thinks they should show how they will increase enrollment or else how the school will be economically feasible to run at its present size before a large sum is spent on renovation planning. He says Belmont will not support but Lexington will.

CROSBY & PARMENTER: Sullivan reiterated his view that these buildings are not self supporting because they do not adequately account for depreciation.

The Committee thanked the Manager for his input.

ART 29-32 PARMENTER & CROSBY: VOTED no report at this time since action by the School Committee is needed before any other action can be taken. No such vote is scheduled.

ART 37 COMPENSATION OF BoS: VOTED no action since any such action should apply to all elected positions and should not invite fraudulent expense claims. Unanimous

ART 20 PAYT: A suggestion to implement the Manager's plan in FY11 was discussed at length. Members claimed requiring \$.50 trash bag is taxation & should be handled by referendum, taking away tax-supported dumpster service from large multi-unit buildings is unfair, the savings to the Town happen to be about the same as the bag revenues, and voters would not approve an override if PAYT were already implemented. VOTED to support the Manager's plan as part of a comprehensive fiscal plan to take effect in FY12. 13 - 5. An amendment of no action failed 6 - 12. Carman to write comment.

ART 50 POSITION RECLASS: Personnel SubCom(Phelps) recommended the vote that she had distributed by email.

VOTED \$7,888 and positive action on all position changes. Unanimous

ART 57 MINUTEMAN TECH BUDGET: Voted \$2,739,795 Unanimous

ART 63 PENSION ADJUSTMENT: The Chair recommended adding additional wording to the standard vote to close a loop hole that would allow a person who retired w/ less than a 50% pension to receive such a pension under this vote. Past actions would be grandfathered. The wording was reviewed by Greco & Bilifer.

VOTED favorable action. Unanimous. Turkall to call Bilafer.

ART 65 HARRY BARBER PROG: VOTED no action in favor of ART 67, Unanimous

ART 66 MINUTEMAN SENIOR SERVICES: VOTED no action in favor of ART 67. Unanimous

ART 67 COA SOCIAL WORKER: Both CoA & Human Services Director agreed that a 2nd part time social worker was a more urgent need than the appropriations requested under Arts 66 & 67. VOTED \$18,179 Unanimous.

ART 72 LOCAL OPTION TAXES: None are available. VOTED no action. Unanimous.

ART 73 OPEB: As in previous years, \$342,313 available from the reduction in non-contrib pensions below \$500k and the 2006 increase in payments by retirees to HMOs, \$155,000, are proposed to be used increase the OPEB fund.

VOTED \$498,313 Unanimous

ART 76 OVERLAY RESERVE SURPLUS: VOTED to transfer \$500,000 surplus reserve to reduce the tax rate. Unanimous.

ART 74 TIP FEE STAB FUND: VOTED to transfer \$680,000 from this fund to the Sanitation budget. Unanimous.

ART 77 STABILIZATION FUND: Voted to transfer \$1,580,000 from this fund together with any additional balance on

June 30 to the regular stabilization fund. Unanimous.

ART 78 USE OF FREE CASH: Voted to transfer \$582,051, 1/2 the funds remaining on 7/1/09, to reduce the tax rate.

COMMITTEE:

All should take ethics training. Gloria to keep a record.

The agenda for past & future meetings may be found at www.arlingtonma.gov/fincom

RESERVE FUND BALANCE \$508,915.92

Peter B Howard 4/1/10 revised 4/7/10

cc FinCom Members, Library File, Town Web Site, FinCom Web Site

VOTE SUMMARY – Articles

# 2/10	#	#	Title	Date Heard	Date Voted	Status (Unlisted votes were unanimous)
20			PAYT	3/17	3/31	Limited support 13-5
24			Tax Checkoff for CoA Transportation	2/24	3/1	No report
26			Double Pole Home Rule Legis			request Manager
28			Pension Liability Funding			request Manager
29			Transfer Crosby	3/17	3/31	No report
30			Transfer Parmenter	3/17	3/31	No report
31			Sell Crosby	3/17	3/31	No report
32			Sell Parmenter	3/17	3/31	No report
33			Accept Law Consolidate Twn & Sch Admin			Reorg Com in April
34			Consolidate Twn & Sch Admin			Reorg Com in April
36			Dog Control	3/1		
37			Compensation of Selectmen	3/17	3/31	No action
39			Additional Warrant Article notification	3/1		No report
47			Collective Bargaining	3/17	3/17	No action
48			Future Collective Bargaining			
49			Salary Adjustment Elected Officials	3/17	3/17	No action
50			Positions Reclassification	3/31	3/31	\$7,888
51			Vacation Time Bylaw	3/17	3/17	Support
52			Budgets	NA	NA	See next page
53			Capital Budget	3/15	3/15	\$7,959,673
54			Rescind authority to borrow			
55			Sewers	3/17	3/17	\$650,000
56			Water	3/17	3/17	\$1,300,000
57			Minuteman Tech	2/22	3/31	\$2,739,795
58			Minuteman Tech Bond	2/22,		

		Authorization	3/17,31		
59		Committees & Commissions	2/17, 3/1	2/17, 3/1	\$14,760, \$3000 for ARC
60		Celebrations			
61		Misc Appropriations	3/17	3/17	\$16,337
62		Scholarship Fund Expenses			
63		Pension Adjustment	3/31	3/31	favorable action
64		Safe Routes to School	3/17	3/17	\$0 funded by grant
65		Harry Barber Service Program	2/24	3/31	No action
66		Minuteman Senior Services	2/24	3/31	No action
67		Social Worker	2/24	3/31	18,179
68		Traffic Supervisors	2/24	2/24	No action
69		Water Bodies	2/17	2/17	\$15,000
70		Uncle Sam	2/17	3/1	No action
71		Restore Trees	2/17	3/1, 3/17	No action, Desheler comment
72		Local Option Taxes	3/31	3/31	No action
73		OPEB	3/31	3/31	498,313
74		Tip Fee Stab Fund	3/31	3/31	680,000
75		Transfer of Cemetery Funds			
76		Overlay Reserve	3/31	3/31	500,000
77		Stabilization Fund	3/31	3/31	1,580,000+
78		Free Cash	3/31	3/31	582,051
STM3		FY10 Appropriations & Budget Transfers	3/17	3/17	No action
STM4		Fire Station Renovation	3/15	3/15	\$4,950,000
STM5		Community Safety Renovations	3/15		

VOTE SUMMARY-Budgets

#	Title	Date Heard	Date Voted	Amount	Vote Unlisted votes were unanimous
1	FinCom	2/22	2/22	10,988	
2	Board of Selectmen	3/24	3/24	359,633	
3	Town Manager	3/8	3/8	417,916	
4	Personnel	3/15	3/15	\$177,896	
5	Information Technology	2/22	2/22	491,878	
6	Comptroller	2/22	2/22	399,044	
7	Treasurer				
8	Postage				
9	Assessors				
10	Legal	3/1	3/1	409,316	

11	Town Clerk	3/8	3/8	234,810	
12	Registrar of Voters	3/8	3/8	59,873	
13	Parking				
14	Planning	3/8	3/8	231,352	
15	Redevelopment Board	3/8	3/8	270,454	
16	Zoning Board of Appeals	2/24	2/24	23,890	
17	Public Works	3/24	3/24	6,595,734	
17g	Street Lights	3/8	3/8	418,893	
18a	Community Safety Admin	3/24	3/24	386,246	
18b	Police	3/24	3/24	5,687,196	
18c	Fire	3/1	3/1	5,463,081	15-1
18d	Support	3/24	3/24	708,384	
19	Inspections	3/8	3/8	367,894	
20	Education	3/29			
21	Library	2/22	2/22	1,888,852	12-1
22a	Health & Human Services	3/24	3/24	287,436	
22b	Veterans	3/15	3/15	326,568	
22c	COA	3/15	3/24	148,928	
23	Retirement	3/8	3/8	7,003,065	
24	Insurance				
25	Reserve Fund				=
W&S EF					
Rec EF					
Rnk EF					
COA EF		3/24			
Youth EF		3/24			